

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TUNIS 03758 271628Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 OES-07 DLOS-09 L-03 /088 W
-----271642Z 084814 /43

O 271606Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6924
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA IMMEDIATE
CINCUSNAVEUR
COMSIXTHFLT IMMEDIATE
EUCOM
SECDEF WASHDC
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T TUNIS 3758

CINCUSNAVEUR; COMSIXTHFLT, EUCOM, USDOCOSOUTH ALSO FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2 (IMPDET)
TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, ENRG, TS, LY, IT
SUBJECT: TUNISIAN/LIBYAN CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE:
TUNISIAN PRIME MINISTER REQUESTS ADVICE

REF: A. TUNIS 3727, B. VALLETTA 0604

1. TUNISIAN PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA CALLED ME AT LUNCHTIME
THIS AFTERNOON TO REPORT THAT TUNISIAN NAVY HAD SIGHTED
".W. BATES" AT OPERATIONS SITE APPROXIMATELY FIVE MILES
FROM SCARABEO IV SITE. DRILLING SHIP WAS ACCOMPANIED
BY TWO LIBYAN NAVY SURFACE CRAFT AND ONE SUBMARINE.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 TUNIS 03758 271628Z

I ASKED WHAT DIRECTION FROM SCARABEO IV SITE "J.W. BATES"
WAS LOCATED. PRIME MINISTER UNAWARE OF DIRECTION.

2. I ASKED PRIME MINISTER WHETHER TUNISIAN NAVY FLAGSHIP
"PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA" WAS IN REGION SITE. HE
CONFIRMED THAT IT WAS.

3. PRIME MINISTER, SOUNDING QUITE UPSET, SAID THAT HE FELT THIS CONSTITUTED "DELIBERATE AGGRESSION" BY LIBYAN GOVERNMENT IN TUNISIAN TERRITORY AND THAT TUNISIA WOULD HAVE TO TAKE APPROPRIATE MEASURES. HE HAD ALMOST REACHED CONCLUSION, HE SAID, THAT TIME HAD COME TO PRESENT MATTER TO U.S. SECURITY COUNCIL, "DESPITE ITS UNFAVORABLE COMPOSITION". HE ASKED WHAT COURSE OF ACTION I WOULD ADVISE HIM TO TAKE UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES. I TOLD NOUIRA THAT UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES SO GRAVE I WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO ADVISE HIM WITHOUT CONSULTING MY SUPERIORS IN WASHINGTON. THIS I PROMISED TO DO RIGHT AWAY AND BE IN CONTACT WITH HIM AS SOON AS I HAD HEARD FROM DEPARTMENT.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: I PRESUME DEPARTMENT WILL NOT HAVE CHANGED ITS PRIOR POSITION THAT WE WOULD SUPPORT INSCRIPTION OF THIS DISPUTE ON SECURITY COUNCIL AGENDA. I WOULD APPRECIATE EARLIEST CONFIRMATION THAT THIS REMAINS OUR POSITION. I WOULD ALSO VALUE ANY ADDITIONAL ADVICE OR COMMENT DEPARTMENT WISHES ME TO PASS TO PRIME MINISTER.
MULCAHY

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTES, CONTINENTAL SHELF, EXPLORATORY DRILLING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TUNIS03758
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2 (IMPDET)
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770190-0408
Format: TEL
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977057/aaaaafxw.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5a823096-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 TUNIS 3727, 77 VALLETTA 604
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2564735
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TUNISIAN/LIBYAN CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE: TUNISIAN PRIME MINISTER REQUESTS ADVICE
TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, ENRG, TS, LY, IT, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5a823096-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009